

EEHW Committee Meeting
January 19, 2006
5:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jay Dunn, Chair
Patty Cox
Tom Durbin
Jerry Potts
Verzell Taylor

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Linda Little
Melverta Wilkins

COUNTY PERSONNEL PRESENT:

Tony VanNatta, Planning/Zoning
Dan Lightner, Planning/Zoning
Sherri Ludlam, Solid Waste
Ken Boles, Asst. State's Attorney
Amy Stockwell, Auditor
Randy Waks, Asst. State's Attorney
Jerry Andrews, Health Dept.
Deb Garrett, Solid Waste
Melissa Gunn, Animal Control

This meeting was called to order by Chair Dunn at the Macon County Office Building.

MINUTES

Motion made by Tom Durbin to approve the minutes of December 15, 2005, seconded by Verzell Taylor, and motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Tom Durbin to approve the closed minutes of December 15, 2005, seconded by Jerry Potts, and motion carried unanimously. Motion made by Tom Durbin to approve the special meeting minutes of December 28, 2005, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried unanimously.

CLAIMS

Motion made by Tom Durbin to pay the claims as funds become available, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried unanimously.

ZONING

Tony VanNatta introduced the new administrator, Dan Lightner.

Tony presented a special use permit for a Boody water tower; there was no opposition and the property was zoned correctly so a special use permit is all that is needed. Tony said staff recommended approval with one stipulation for a chain link fence around the perimeter of the tower. Motion made by Tom Durbin to send the request and recommend approval to the full county board and seconded by Patty Cox. A roll call vote was taken; Dunn aye, Cox aye, Durbin aye, Potts aye, Taylor aye, and motion carried unanimously.

Tony presented a rezoning request from agricultural to RE-5 from Kenneth McCoy for a 10 acre tract to be divided into two individual five acre tracts RE-5 single family. Staff recommended at the hearing petition be granted subject to the stipulation of both 5 acre lots of RE-5 single family be properly deeded and recorded by the Macon County Recorder.

Tony said he has done this on two or three in the past for fear it may not get recorded right away and if someone else was writing permits, they would not be able to issue that permit even though someone might come in and say we got it done a year ago; if it is recorded properly, we will be able to find them when the records are checked. Motion made by Tom Durbin to send the request and recommend approval to the full county board, and seconded by Patty Cox. A roll call vote was taken; Dunn aye, Cox aye, Durbin aye, Potts aye, Taylor aye, and motion carried unanimously.

Tony presented a rezoning request from John Drayton for an 18 acre tract from agricultural to R-1 Single Family Residential on Turpin and Kathy Court bordered in the center of both streets. Staff recommends it be granted and the zoning board approved it unanimously. Motion made by Tom Durbin to send the request and recommend approval to the full county board, and seconded by Patty Cox. A roll call vote was taken; Dunn aye, Cox aye, Durbin aye, Potts aye, and Taylor aye, and motion carried unanimously.

Chair Dunn said Sherri Ludlam has a new employee here which she wants to introduce to the committee. Sherri introduced Deb Garrett, the new environmental educator, who started the end of December.

REPORTS

Animal Control

Melissa Gunn distributed her Kennel Statistics Report for December 2005 and for the year, January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005, and it will be submitted to the county clerk's office for the record. In response to a question from Tom Durbin regarding the age a dog has to have the rabies shot, Melissa said 4 months of age.

Melissa visited the new building today and said it was coming along nicely. She invited committee members to call her if they wanted to tour the new building. Patty Cox said she and Linda were out there this afternoon for a tour, and it was very nice. Melissa said it will hold the same number of animals which are in the current facility, but they will be able to be held individually instead of in group pens.

Solid Waste

Sherri Ludlam requested approval of dues for her annual membership totaling \$165 in the Solid Waste Association of North America; it is the national organization in which certification is received. Motion made by Tom Durbin to approve the dues, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried unanimously.

Sherri said applications have been received from Austin Township, Long Creek Village and Township, Oakley Township, Mt. Zion Village and Township for clean-up grants. They will be up to \$1000 each for reimbursement of clean ups. Motion made by Tom Durbin to approve and seconded by Jerry Potts. In response to a question from Patty Cox, Sherri said a village and township do not receive \$1000 each. Motion carried unanimously.

Regarding clean-ups done last year, 415 households participated in Austin, Blue Mound, Long Creek and Mt. Zion; garbage collected was 134 tons and 47 tons were recycled.

Sherri presented an application for a grant from Blue Mound Village for an oil burner which is the same type burner done in other locations; they are requesting funding of \$9,211.48. Motion made by Patty Cox to approve, seconded by Tom Durbin, and motion carried unanimously.

Ken Boles said he and Luis Perez attended the Decatur Township meeting last Thursday, and going over Solid Waste, a lot has been done in the outlying townships but nothing has been done in Decatur Township. A presentation of what could be done was given at the meeting, and Ken hopes to expand the programs in Decatur Township since half the people in the county live there.

A new Nuisance Ordinance was discussed at the last meeting; Ken said he has been collecting nuisance ordinances from other counties for comparison, and so the best parts from each can be selected.

Ken said \$43,000 was received last week from Onyx in tipping fees.

Planning & Zoning

Dan Lightner said there was nothing to report this evening.

Health Department

Jerry Andrews said a few, but not many, flu cases have been reported in Macon County. Flu vaccine is still available. As reported last month, pertussis was on the rise but it has now become more sporadic. Regarding avian flu, the federal government has released around 100 million dollars to states which will work with local health departments to plan for a pandemic if it ever happens.

Jerry said a program has been approved by the state called All Kids, a program to provide health insurance to children up to age 18 for families who are up to 200% of poverty. It takes the place of Kid Care which was a federal program which was up to 185% of poverty. Each child will have a primary care provider; it allows for local health departments and qualified health centers to continue to provide primary care services like immunizations, well child visits, etc. and bill Medicaid for that. Jerry said approximately \$150,000 annually is brought in from these services. The program begins July 1 in the new fiscal year.

Jerry said as sort of a complaint but really an observation, for two years or more they have been investing in and hoping for GIS mapping and the county website to be up and running. Jerry said they feel it has not gone too far too quickly; Jason has been over to install some of the county software on computers but it does not seem to be doing well. Jerry said they are particularly interested in GIS since there are lots of applications they want to use it for.

The county website is secondary to them since they have their own website and hopefully the county will just link to the Health Department website. Jerry said they would like to link back to the county website for people who need other services, and right now a lot of those are not available on a website. Jerry does not know if anyone on this committee can do anything about it, but it needs to move forward. Out of federal grants, they have invested \$10,000 and have gotten nothing the past two years and they have to be accountable for the money. Chair Dunn asked Jerry if he had spoken to Jason about this, and Jerry said briefly last Friday and their IT guy talked to him in more depth but Jason seemed confused as to what exactly he is suppose to be doing, but hopefully the new zoning administrator will take care of this. Chair Dunn asked Dan Lightner to check into this and get back with Jerry.

NEW BUSINESS

Chair Dunn said Craig Coil was present to discuss expansion of the enterprise zone; two years ago, the county got involved in the intergovernmental agreement with the city over the enterprise zone, and Craig will give an update tonight.

Mr. Coil said this is more of an informational report rather than an action request. Macon County is a partner in the Economic Development Corporation of Decatur and Macon County, and he is president. As a result of the enterprise zone agreement, the county has a position on the EDC board. Regarding GIS services and in-kind services received from the county in lieu of cash contribution, Jason provides the majority of their mapping to clients and prospects, and there is a direct link in their web page to the county's enterprise zone GIS map server. Anything the county can do to allow that technology to continue to go forward will help EDC and everyone else, and he thanked the county for the support.

Mr. Coil said there are three boundary amendments to the Decatur and Macon County enterprise zone to be processed in the next 30 to 45 days, and a map was distributed. The three dots represent the boundary extensions which will be done to the current enterprise zone boundaries. The blue area on the map represents existing enterprise zone boundaries, and the one of particular interest to the county is the extension which will be on the northeast portion of the zone. TCR has requested the extension to accommodate an expansion of their facility which will result in additional jobs. It is located outside the city limits of Decatur, so a three foot wide, 4000 foot long strip from the NE corner of the existing zone along Brush College Road up north on the public right of way and across the interstate to intersect with the SW corner of their property will be done. Long term, it is hoped to add the entire section into the zone to accommodate future growth and development, but that will not be done until there is a real project.

One is a project which may or may not happen, and it is on the lower right side of the map. Property transfers have taken place and it is approximately a 6 million dollar investment with 25 to 250 new jobs.

The portion on the left of the map is within the city limits of Decatur is a piece of property directly across the street from Perkins Restaurant, the Macon County Eye Associates who are

doing an expansion to that facility. There will be additional jobs at this facility also. This is really a correction since everyone around him is in the zone and when the building was built in 1996, they were not allowed to be in the zone for whatever reason but there is no technical reason why they should not be in the zone.

Mr. Coil said the only other addition they did into the county was out to PPG when the original agreement was done in May 2004 between the county, the city, and EDC.

Tom Durbin asked if one of the dots was part of the old Firestone property, and Mr. Coil said it was actually on Brush College Road north of Faries Parkway, and is vacant land. Mr. Coil said the Firestone facility is already in the zone. Chair Dunn asked what the benefit is to the customer for the enterprise zone. Depending on the scope of the project, Mr. Coil said property tax abatement is available and it was part of the overall resolution passed earlier for projects which have \$150,000 capital investment and where companies agree in writing to create and/or retain 25 full-time jobs. A memo of understanding is done with the company which requests property tax abatement, and they are tracked to make sure their jobs are being created and retained at the level they said. If they don't, Mr. Coil said they have the ability to go back and request repayment. There are also a series of state tax credits and exemptions which everyone gets depending on the scope of the project, but the only one affected locally is the sales tax exemption and property tax abatement if they are eligible.

Jerry Potts asked how this affects the outsourcing of PPG employees, and if it is in violation. Mr. Coil said there is no impact since they do not get property tax abatement. The memo of understanding relating to job retention is strictly related to property tax abatement which they do not receive. The benefit to PPG was the state credits and exemptions that all the other people in town of their scope and size were receiving that they were not.

NEXT MEETING

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006, at 5:00 p.m. at the Macon County Office Building.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion made by Tom Durbin to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Patty Cox, and motion carried unanimously.

Minutes submitted by Linda Koger
Macon County Board Office